



STATE OF WASHINGTON

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

Farmland Preservation Program Manager
Farmland Preservation Program Assistant Manager
Each - WMS II \$55,000 - \$75,000/year

OPENS MAY 30, 2007 AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Location

There are two vacancies with the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Agency Profile

The Washington State Conservation Commission is a state agency whose mission is to provide structure and leadership for good governance by conservation districts who supply education, technical assistance and assist in the implementation of land management practices that address soil, water and other natural resource issues on private lands. The Commission also houses the newly created Office of Farmland Preservation.

Position Objective and Duties

Position number one will work under supervision of the Executive Director to implement and manage the newly created Office of Farmland Preservation (SSB 5108 – 2007 Regular Session). Position number two will report to the person selected to occupy position number one. Positions will work independently on specific tasks but also coordinate closely to ensure effective program management. The positions will:

- Be the principle advocates for the State of Washington on farmland preservation;
- Build and maintain effective working relationships with each conservation district board of supervisors and staff, county and city governments, stakeholder groups, and state and federal agencies.
- Provide guidance, assistance and support for the newly created Farmland Preservation Task Force to:
 - Implement the provisions of the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program and develop recommendations for funding;
 - Provide an analysis of the major factors that have led to past declines in the amount and use of agricultural lands in Washington and of the factors that will likely affect retention and economic viability of these lands into the future;
 - Develop model programs and tools, including innovative economic incentives for landowners, to retain agricultural land for agricultural production;
- Provide technical assistance to localities as they develop and implement programs, mechanisms, and tools to encourage the retention of agricultural lands;
- Develop a grant process and an eligibility certification process for localities to receive grants for local programs and tools to retain agricultural lands for agricultural production;
- Provide analysis, recommendations and begin the development of a farm transition program to assist in the transition of farmland and related businesses from one generation to the next, aligning the farm transition program closely with the farmland preservation effort to assure complementary functions; and
- Create and manage a clearinghouse for conservation incentive programs; consolidate and disseminate information relating to conservation programs that are accessible to landowners and assist owners of agricultural lands to secure financial assistance to implement conservation easements and other projects.
- Provide training and presentations to stakeholders on farmland preservation.

Desirable Qualifications

- Experience or expertise in agriculture, farmland preservation, land use planning, public administration or other applicable expertise;
- Knowledge of State and Federal laws, policies and other applicable guidelines
- A Bachelor's degree and at least 5-years of professional experience.

Requirements

- Demonstrated proficiency with WORD, EXCEL, OUTLOOK, ACCESS, INTERNET
- Proficiency in time management and managing multiple activities.
- Excellent verbal and written communication including presentation experience.
- Excellent customer service skills.
- Hold or obtain a valid Washington State Driver's License. In addition, the successful finalists (top 2) will be required to undergo a WSP background check and must provide a complete driver's history.

How to Apply

Candidates may apply by submitting the following packet of information:

1. A letter describing your interest in this position including how your knowledge, skills, and abilities meet the desired qualifications and requirements.
2. A resume addressing employment history and experience.
3. A minimum of five (5) references with current telephone numbers. At least three (3) are to be professional references and at least two (2) are to be personal.
4. The reference authorization form, (copy the text below into your document, print, **complete and sign**. If submitting application materials electronically and you are unable to scan the **signed** reference authorization form prior to emailing, please fax it.)

Hiring Process – There will be one interview process for both positions.

1. Application Review – as received
2. Interviews – Week of June 25, 2007
3. Anticipated Starting Date – July 16, 2007

Delivery Addresses	Fax / Email Address	Contact Information
USPS: State Conservation Commission Attn: Debbie Becker PO Box 47721 Olympia, WA 98504 Hand Delivery: State Conservation Commission; 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey	Subject Line: Farmland Preservation Program Managers FAX: 360-407-6215 Email: Debbie Becker dbecker@scc.wa.gov	Contact: Debbie Becker Phone: 360-407-6211

REFERENCE AUTHORIZATION

To Whom It May Concern:

I, _____, authorize the State Conservation Commission to contact all of my former or present employers for the purposes of verification and reference.

I knowingly and voluntarily release the State Conservation Commission, its individual employees, and all my former or present employers and their individual employees, from any and all known and unknown claims for damages or other relief arising out of the department's request for and receipt of employment information, unless my current or former employer is prohibited by state or federal law from disclosing the information that the department requests. This authorization includes review of state employee personnel files.

Date

Printed name of Applicant

Applicant's Signature

NOTE: A photocopy of this information shall be as valid as the original.

The State of Washington is an equal opportunity employer. Persons with a disability who need assistance in the application or testing process, or those needing this announcement in an alternative format, may call (360) 664-1960 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (360) 664-6211. For questions about this recruitment call (360) 664-6260.